

DRAFT

Mississippi River Basin Panel (MRBP) on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Organizational Meeting Minutes

July 10-11, 2003

Action/Assignments Summary

Actions

- The Panel agreed to attempt to achieve consensus in all actions.
- Panel structure was established to include the following subunits:
 - Executive Board (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Coordinator, Committee chairs, Commercial representative, Environmental representative, and Tribal representative)
 - Education and Communication Committee (Elected chair and Panel and non-Panel members)
 - Research and Risk Assessment Committee (Elected chair and Panel and non-Panel members)
 - Prevention and Control Committee (Elected chair and Panel and non-Panel members).
- Committee responsibilities and priorities were established (see below).
- The need for a Policy Committee was deferred for later consideration.
- The Executive Board will serve as a coordinating body to keep Panel activities going between meetings, all major decisions will be made by the Panel.
- The ANS Task Force will provide for formal inter-panel coordination; Panel Chair, Vice Chair, Coordinator, Committee chairs, and members will provide for informal communications and coordination between panels.
- A Panel letterhead was adopted.

ANS Task Force

- Provide the Panel with a list of operational directions and a list of “Do’s and Don’ts”.
- Assist in filling additional federal vacancies on the Panel.

Executive Board

- Develop and submit a proposal to the ANS Task Force for FY 2003 funding.
- Continue to solicit membership for vacant Panel positions.
- Circulate Committee structure to all Panel members and solicit appointment of additional committee members.
- Coordinate and establish time and location for the next Panel meeting.
- Initiate periodic conference calls.
- Provide support for committees, as needed.

Education and Communication Committee

- Initiate communications among Committee membership.
- Evaluate desired format for a Panel newsletter (i.e. use existing or develop new newsletter format).
- Evaluate desired format for a Web Page and List Serve.
- Begin developing Committee tasks.

Research and Risk Assessment Committee

- Initiate communications among Committee membership.
- Initiate discussions of immediate research needs.

Prevention and Control Committee

- Initiate communications among Committee membership.
- Initiate discussions regarding immediate prevention and control measures

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**Bloomington, MN
July 10-11, 2003**

July 10, 2003

Welcome and Introductions of Members

Panel Chairman Jay Rendall (MN) called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. (attendance list is included at the end of the minutes). Rendall welcomed all in attendance and asked everyone to introduce themselves and briefly describe their interests and backgrounds.

Initial thoughts about the Panel

Rendall said that several individuals have been working for about two years to get to this point, that we are excited to see everyone here today and look forward to getting to know you and to work with you. He made the following comments related to the panel and meeting, "I am pleased to be able to get the panel started by having an excellent group of speakers to help share information about many new and ongoing issues in the Basin and the nation related to ANS. Within the Basin, and within our membership, we have many different issues and perspectives and it is important for us to be familiar with the wide range of ANS issues facing us."

The panel faces many ANS challenges, we face a challenge just getting this large group together, and we face a challenge to move ANS issues forward in the Basin. I hope we can meet the challenges — in part by forming partnerships and through information sharing. Based on my experience with the Great Lakes panel — you will all become liaisons from the entity you represent — and not just to the panel but to all the other panel member entities.

We have planned this first meeting to try to accomplish several things:

- To familiarize the members with other panel members and their efforts;
- Expose Panel members to ANS issues, pathways of spread, and various ANS efforts in the Basin,
- Learn from the experiences of other panels;
- Help organize the Panel's future endeavors;
- Expose Panel members to some of the issues in the North end of the Basin through a field trip.

He said that future meetings will not include a whole host of speakers as we have today, nor will all the food be provided by the panel as it is at this meeting. He said our purpose in providing the food at this meeting is to keep everyone together and to stimulate communications. He asked

for adjustments to the agenda (copy attached) and non were made.

Norm Stucky, MICRA Chairman, gave a brief overview of MICRA and its role in hosting the Panel. He thanked Rendall, Jerry Rasmussen (MICRA) and Mike Hoff (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) for all of their efforts since the February MICRA meeting in Little Rock where MICRA officially accepted the challenge of sponsoring the Panel. He said that this was a significant day for him, because when he took over MICRA two years ago we tried to address various issues related to ANS issues with various levels of success, and now the Panel is formed to assist in those matters. He said he was also impressed with the diversity of interests in attendance, and said that a special thanks was due to each of you for being here. He said he knows how tight budgets are and how tough it is to get travel approval.

He noted that MICRA's membership includes 28 states, four federal agencies (FWS, TVA, USBOR, USGS/BRD), and two Indian tribes. He said that thanks go to the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) for providing the services of the Coordinator. He said the vision of MICRA is to use the incredible political block of the Mississippi River Basin (MRB) states to serve as a voice for the aquatic resources of the MRB. He said that MICRA's mission is to "Improve the conservation, development, management, productivity and utilization of interjurisdictional fishery resources (including freshwater mussels) in the MRB through improved coordination and communication among relevant agencies and entities". He said the two key words here are communication and coordination. MICRA's focus is on some 90 major rivers and 80 fish species, and he said that MICRA is unashamedly biased for natural resources.

He noted that the central U.S. has had no ANS Panel until now, and that ANS do not respect political boundaries. He said that collaboration is important and that the Panel needs to set priorities, coordinate federal programs, make recommendations to the national ANS Task Force, and to inform and involve stakeholders. He said that this is a daunting challenge because invasive species problems have increased as the world has shrunk through international travel and trade. But as enormous and daunting as the challenge is, we can make a difference. If I didn't believe that, he said, I wouldn't be pushing for this. In Missouri he said we have prevented the launching of several boats that were infested with zebra mussels. Because of a good public education campaign, marina managers recognized the problem and prevented those launchings, and so far, he said, we have not documented zebra mussels in Missouri's interior lakes. He said that the zebra mussel is just now starting to move up the Meramac River. The bottom line, he said, is that our collective voice through MICRA and this Panel is important.

With regard to MICRA's Organizational Strategy for the Panel, he said the important points are that we need to:

- Maximize participation,
- Avoid duplication,
- Rely on cooperators to do the work, and
- Serve as a clearinghouse and referral service, or basin-wide conduit for information.

He said that the overlapping jurisdictions of ANS panels are good because that automatically provides for cross-panel communications and coordination. He said we need to maintain

membership diversity, balancing broad representation with a manageable sized panel, and encourage observers (federal, state, regional, tribal, local, private, environmental, commercial, research, and at large).

Panel funding presently includes \$10,000 in MICRA funds, a portion of the MICRA Coordinator's (Rasmussen) staff time, and the FWS has agreed to provide \$50,000 for the first year of operation. He said we need to do some creative financing to accomplish special projects, and that tomorrow we will form committees, so think about which you would like to join, we'd like everyone to volunteer for at least one of the committees. He said that Rendall (Chairman) and Hoff (Vice Chairman) had been appointed by MICRA for the first year of Panel operation. After that, the Panel will elect someone from among the Panel membership to fill those positions. He said that the Chair must be a state member, but the Vice Chair can be anyone. Also he said, that once the committees are formed we will likely hire a small staff.

He said that there is no silver bullet to solve ANS problems, we simply must prevent invasions and minimize ecological damage and damage to economies. He said we must strategically plan actions and prioritize our goals in order to focus and commit fiscal and personnel resources to take actions on the highest priority goals. In setting goals, he said, we need to work together to develop our strategic plan - a concise document that will describe goals, strategies and targets. For achieving our goals we need to actively support legislation that provides the resources that are commensurate with our tasks so that we can execute high priority actions and participate on committees.

Symposium on ANS Issues in the Basin

Chairman Rendall then introduced the technical presentations segment of the meeting. The topics and speakers are listed below.

Species in the Basin and their Management: (Moderator: Jay Rendall)

- ANS in the Basin (Jerry Rasmussen, MICRA)
- Asian carp (Duane Chapman, USGS)
- New Zealand mud snail (Dr. Billie Kerans, Montana State University)
- Round goby (Dr. David Jude, University of Michigan)
- Purple loosestrife, Eurasian watermilfoil, and other biocontrol (Dr. Luke Skinner - MNDNR)

Pathways of Spread and Prevention: (Moderator: Luke Skinner)

- Risks associated with the aquatic plant trade (Kristine Maki, University of Minnesota)
- Recreational activities, voluntary guidelines, example state laws (Jay Rendall, MNDNR)
- Effective boater education programs and products (Doug Jensen, Minnesota Sea Grant)

National and Basin issues and initiatives:

ANS/Invasive Species related entities (Moderator: Mike Hoff)

- ANS Task Force (Sharon Gross, USFWS/ANS Task Force)
- Western Panel Show and Tell (Mike Stone, WY Game and Fish Department)
- Great Lakes Panel Show and Tell (Phil Moy and Doug Jensen)
- Gulf Panel Show and Tell (Ron Lukens, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission)

Prevention Initiatives (Moderator: Norm Stuckey)

- Dispersal barrier and summit in Chicago (Phil Moy, WI Sea Grant)
- 100th Meridian initiative (Bob Pitman and Mike Hoff, USFWS)
- Protect Your Waters / Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers (Doug Jensen, Minnesota Sea Grant)
- National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA) (Allen Hance, Northeast Midwest Institute)
- National Invasive Species Council (NISC): Who are they, status of national plan, and rapid response initiatives (Chris Dionigi, National Invasive Species Council)
- Risk Assessment for Nonindigenous Fish (Cindy Kolar, USGS)

The presentations are being made available on a CD that will be distributed to members. It was noted during Luke Skinner's presentation that an up to date publication on biological control of aquatic nuisance species is available from the Forest Service. Copies can be obtained by asking for USDA Forest Service Publication FHTET-2002-04 at (304) 285-1563.

After a break during the presentations Marshall Meyers provided a member update. He said that the pet industry, Sea Grant, and the FWS have come together under a joint venture to educate aquarists on the responsible and proper disposal of fish and other exotic pets when no longer wanted. He said that over \$1 million per year will be provided through various vendors such as *Walmart* and *Petco* who will print logos and information on more than 20 million fish bags/year. Also brochures, wallet cards, etc. will be provided. One member of the joint venture does over 23 million mailings per year, and will provide publication space for the effort. This effort began among Great Lakes states, and other states are now wanting to participate. He said that a "best management practices" series will also be published, and that major retailers are telling their vendors that, "you will be a part of this!"

Stucky thanked all the presenters, as well as Rendall, Rasmussen and Hoff for their efforts in putting the technical program together. He said it was really an informative session. He noted that our Panel is a link between the geography of the MRB and the ANS Task Force in Washington, DC. He said that our Panel is not a lobbying group, but a mechanism for passing information upstream to Washington. He said that we could use a list of "do's and don'ts" from the ANS Task Force to keep us out of trouble in the future. He noted that with regard to committees there is a lot of common sense in having the same committee structure between the panels to assure overlap and coordination. He said we need to clearly link arms with the other panels across the nation, so the more conformity of committees the better. As we set up committees, Ron Lukens noted that there are 6 panel vacancies that he is still hoping to fill on the Gulf Panel, so the MRBP has challenges ahead in keeping stakeholders involved.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 5:35 p.m.

July 11, 2003

Discussion on Panel Organization and Operation

Establish Committees

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 AM. Attention of the meeting was then turned to the formation of MRBP committees. It was noted that the Great Lakes Panel maintains committees on Research, Policy, and Information & Education. Stucky moderated the committee selection process.

Rendall said that we need to keep referring back to our Organizational Strategy as the Panel continues to evolve. Mike Armstrong (AR) said we need to look at the membership list and set out operational procedures. He said further that we need to define the transition mechanism to the proposed elected leadership, determine whether or not we will operate by consensus, and define who the members will be. He said we probably need an initial steering committee who is charged with attracting new members. Sharon Gross (ANS Task Force) said that at least one other panel uses an Executive Board as a subset to work for the Panel, rather than using the full committee. Lukens said that he would send us a copy of the Gulf Panel's operational procedures. Gross said she needs to provide more formal advice on how to operate, what makes up a quorum, etc. Armstrong said that the Gulf Panel structured themselves under the tasks laid out by the Invasive Species Council. Gross said that the ANS Task Force actually runs according to the Act. The main thing is to find out what works for you. Doug Jensen said there are a lot of advantages to having an Executive Board. He said that the Western Panel and Great Lakes panels use them. These are generally made up of the Committee chairs, he said. Mike Stone (WY) said there are some at-large types on the Executive Board. They are "elected/volunteered" to serve in this capacity, he said.

Gross said the Task Force could certainly suggest the model of using chairs of individual committees with at-large members as a good way to operate. Rendall said the Great Lakes Panel does not have an Executive Committee. Decision or lack of decision making falls to the Great Lakes Commission. He said he thinks it is preferable to not take that approach in order to keep the Panel separate from MICRA. He said the Panel needs to have autonomy.

Armstrong said that MICRA identified certain groups in the Organizational Strategy, and suggested that the Panel may want to use those "groups" in the structure to identify Executive Board members (i.e. Federal, State, Multi-State, Private Commercial, Tribes, University, etc.). Gross said we don't want to end up with all members as feds, states, etc. Armstrong agreed that we need a mix. Marilyn O'Leary (Louisiana Sea Grant) said that on the Gulf Panel these kinds of decisions were left until much later because as time passed we were able to better define our needs. The Gulf Panel formed committees in a certain way, synthesized that information, sent out thoughts, and the final organization took a couple of months to come together. She said she didn't think we should get bogged down in something we aren't yet prepared to address. This will synthesize itself and help us identify how we can best operate.

Stucky said I think we are in agreement to form a decision making Executive Board, and that we don't want to get bogged down today in how that Board should be formed. Rendall said that the Executive Board is a coordination and facilitation body, but doesn't make all the decisions for the Panel - we have to do the later as a full Panel. Stucky agreed. Stone said that makeup of the Board is not so important now, but the concept is important. Rendall said that monthly conference calls of that group are important as done by the Western Panel. I'd like to see that added to the list as one of the tasks. Stone said that while the makeup of Executive Board is large, we are only going to get 5-6 members on any conference call.

Ken Lubinski (The Nature Conservancy) asked how the Panel was being formed, and where the money is coming from. Gross said that a law passed in 1990 authorized establishment of the panels. The first panel was set up in 1991. Resources for the panels come from the FWS and from individual agencies. State and federal agencies also bring resources to the table for common priorities.

In summarizing the discussion, Stucky said that Gross will provide guidance for the panel, the Panel will have an Executive Board with good representation of all stakeholders, and it will be a decision making body, but also a facilitator/coordinator. He then directed discussions back to committee formation, and referred to a draft structure prepared by Hoff and Rendall (copy attached). He said it makes a lot of sense for the panels to have similar committee structures. O'Leary said the suggested structure was similar, but not the same for the Gulf Panel. Stone said that the Western panel has both inland and coastal components, but that it will change. Gross said that the National model is to have the focus on prevention and information and outreach. Jensen said he would recommend that communication is one thing and outreach and education is another. He said there needs to be at least some body as a communication mechanism between the Panel and the media. O'Leary said she would recommend combining communication and education as one committee. Gross said that most panels don't have a policy committee, but tend to leave that to the Executive Board. O'Leary said the Gulf Panel has a prevention and pathways committee. Armstrong and O'Leary supported "prevention and control" as a committee. Mosher suggested that we may not do "prevention" as any one goal, but as part of all the other committees. Stucky said that is a good point. Hoff said that some committees may have overlapping goals and strategies. Speichert (Crystal Palace Perennials) said that by having prevention stand alone, the committee tells everyone else what to do in the way of prevention. Kerans (Montana State University) said that each committee will have overlapping education and communication activities, and that she would like to see prevention given a high priority to keep the New Zealand mud snail from spreading. Gross said that prevention has always been a problem – it can go either way. Rendall said that if we develop position papers for prevention, he would like to see that committee handle the policy duties.

Speichert suggested that we leave it as it is and move it as we need to; we could waste lots of time on this otherwise. Let's change it as needed, he said, like a private business works. Stucky agreed that most organizations do evolve. Armstrong supported Rendall's comment that policy evolves from the ground up, otherwise a policy committee would be waiting around for something to happen before making any policies. Cindy Kolar (USGS/BRD) said that policy

was important for the Great Lakes Panel because policy was needed for ballast water right away, but she supported handling that function under the Prevention Committee for now.

Gross said that it is important to work for consensus because all issues where disagreement occurs will need to be passed up to the ANS Task Force. Joe Mion (OH) said that the difficulty of the Panel is that agencies make regulations, while the Panel's function is to coordinate policy region-wide through its influence on member agencies. We really need to not think about this and how this Panel should be structured with regard to other national groups. Rendall said his assumption is that we would structure ourselves like the Great Lakes Panel with committees developing recommendations that come back to the Panel for a decision.

Stone suggested eliminating the policy committee for now because it's too late in 2003 to do anything for this year. Stucky agreed that policy be moved down into prevention for now, and be subject to change later. Lubinski supported leaving some of these decisions for later as we decide what to do and let the tasks form the committees. Stucky said that if we move policy down to prevention, then we are left with three standing committees plus the Executive Board. So for now we would have the following committees:

- Education/Communication,
- Research and Risk Assessment,
- Prevention and Control, and
- Executive Board.

Jensen and O'Leary supported this as a good structure. Hoff said we don't need to mirror other panels. Mion said that monitoring is implicit in prevention and control. Stone said that these same issues are addressed by the Western Panel. Stucky said I'm going to say that we are "there" with this structure, subject to change later.

Committee Responsibilities

A discussion of draft committee responsibilities took place (see list). With regard to Education and Communication, Stucky said, are we satisfied with key responsibilities? Mion said that these are the types of things we should leave to the committees to decide. I don't think that it is time well spent discussing this here. Jensen said we could direct each committee to coordinate with their counterparts in other regional panels, and we need to think about setting up liaison mechanisms with other panels for each committee. O'Leary said that the Education and Communication Committee must support the work of all other panel committees. Stucky supported this point.

Armstrong asked if committee membership is restricted to just panel members or can others also be a member. Jensen said that anyone can be a member of the committees of the Great Lakes Panel. Gross said you have to remember that everything has to come back to the Panel. Each committee has its "groupies" who participate on that committee - you want to be as inclusive as possible. Armstrong expressed support for that concept. Gross said that coordination with other panels shouldn't be beaten too hard; the National Task Force intends to come up with better ways for all panels to coordinate.

Steve Shults (IL) said that prioritization of species for control belongs under Research and Risk Assessment rather than under Prevention and Control. Rendall suggested that maybe we want to split out species that are already here for Prevention and Control, but how do we treat species that are already here vs species that may be introduced? Shults agreed that it could go under both. Rasmussen and Hoff supported including it under both. Mion said that research needs to identify research priorities and undertake research projects. Duane Chapman (USGS/BRD) said that he would see this group as not actually doing research, but supporting the scientific meetings or groups where people can get together and disperse information. Knight (ARS) said that in a more general sense he sees this committee as identifying research needs, supporting and providing for technology transfer through meetings, etc. Mark Heywood (MN) said that a distinct difference exists between research and monitoring, and that it needs to be in there someplace. Rendall said it can go in many places, but suggested putting monitoring under control because in order to control you need to know where something is. In response to a question from a panel member, Rendall said that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a fancy term for use of all techniques available. One responsibility is to help recommend control methods. Stucky said that we will put monitoring under Prevention and Control for now. Lubinski asked if the Panel can lobby? Rendall said no, we can develop policy positions, and then our members can use that for their own lobbying. We can't lobby because the Panel is a branch of a federal task force.

Committee Membership

Stucky then suggested that we move ahead with committee signup and committee chairs. Rendall circulated a signup sheet. Stucky said that by now we all know where we can offer the most input. Armstrong suggested that, for today, we try to at least designate who the Executive Board members (i.e. federal, state, etc.) will be. Stucky instructed members to not limit themselves to signing up for just one committee. Stone said that the list needs to go out to those not here today. Mion suggested that Panel members present identify if you have a person from your agency who will participate on a committee. Stucky agreed. Rendall said that once we have this list, it will be mailed out to the full membership for others to volunteer.

Stucky directed discussions on how the Executive Board should be structured. O'Leary said the Gulf Panel doesn't really have a big Board. Instead they have a small group who does this because the whole panel has this responsibility. She said it seems that the Executive Board should be a group who keeps the Panel going. Gross suggested that membership should start with the Coordinator, Chair, Vice Chair, Committee chairs, and then fill in the blanks as you need to. Rendall agreed that non-governmental entities from industry and environmental groups be included. Gross said that some of those representatives may already be there as a committee chair, but if it is not there it can be added. Stucky asked for comments on this as a first cut. Lubinski said that the Executive Board seems to be a group who just gives direction to keep things going, with the committees making the decisions. Gross said that committees will bring information to the Panel and that the full Panel will make the decisions. Rendall expressed concern with the title Executive Board, and suggested instead that it be retitled as the "Coordinating Board" because it is not a "big decision" making body. Holland (EPA/Gulf Panel) said that maybe a steering committee would be better. Stucky suggested letting that issue rest for awhile.

Kim Bogenschutz (IA) asked if the Panel Chair always has to be a state representative. Gross said yes, that all the panels do that. She said that she didn't think it is written in stone, but is probably done to be sure we get all the states involved. Shults said we need to add a tribal representative. Stucky agreed. Rendall said that the Great Lakes Panel elected committee chairs, and that we could take volunteers and mail that out to get the committees going. Bogenschutz agreed that if committees are to make progress we need a temporary chairman. Gross agreed. Shults suggested that we appoint them here. Gross agreed that without chairs nothing will happen and all duties will fall to the Panel Chair and Vice Chair. Rendall said that we would love to have volunteers, otherwise Mike and I could volunteer them. O'Leary said that the Panel Chair of the Gulf Panel is an ex-officio member of all the committees anyway, and that the committees elected their own chairs at the first meeting. John Meyer (Coast Guard) suggested that everyone who signed up for each committee hold a short meeting in this room and elect a chair. Stucky then assigned each committee a separate corner of the room for organizing themselves after the break.

Brief meetings were held, and when the Panel meeting reconvened Rasmussen announced the following chairs (a list of present committee membership is attached):

- Prevention and Control (Kim Bogenschutz, IA)
- Research and Risk Assessment (Cindy Kolar, USGS/BRD)
- Education and Communication (Steve Schainhost, NE)

Stucky said that we will rely on Sharon Gross to give us guidance on Panel and committee operations so we won't need to spend time on that here.

Cooperation and Connection with Other Panels

Hoff then gave a PowerPoint presentation on the anticipated levels of cooperation and communications between panels. Gross reiterated that the ANS Task Force should do a lot of the coordination for us. She said that they can bring much of the needed information back to us. She said further that the Task Force would hold a meeting later this year on some of the things you are talking about here. She said we could never have too much coordination, but we should try to use the Task Force as much as possible to avoid duplication of effort. Mion agreed, the responsibility for coordination should be flowing from the Task Force, but some coordination should also flow from our joint membership on other panels. Meyers agreed, we have joint members from Great Lakes, Western and Gulf panels. Hoff said that we may still need to designate a point of contact for this effort. Shults reiterated the need to add a communications task under each of the committees. Boxrucker said that he would argue for an official liaison, because then if that person is unable to attend it would be up to him or her to tap someone else. Mosher suggested that that role should be up to the Chair and vice Chair. If we do that this process will take care of itself. That seems to work well for the Western Panel, he said. They will not attend all of the other meetings, but they will be in contact through Sharon Gross. Jensen said that creating a liaison is for the benefit of our Panel. He said further that the Great Lakes Panel is using the liaison to get updates periodically from the other panels at our meetings. Rendall suggested that we leave it up to the Chair and Vice Chair to ensure that we are represented at the other panel meetings as needed. No one official person will attend, but

someone will attend as the needs change. Lubinski suggested that the function of liaison is usually a function of availability of travel funds, and asked if those funds come from here. Hoff said no, one of our members would be attending the meetings anyway, so they can do it for us. Mosher suggested that it may be possible to meet at the same time as one of our co-panels to increase interaction. If we do that, Rendall said, then which panel meeting do you attend if you have overlapping memberships?

Mion said that with all the newsletters, emails, etc., there should be a communication model out there to use. I think the modes and methods for info exchange are established and we don't need to squeeze out a structure to formalize that, but to communicate as we need to through the available media and distribute it to the other Panel members as needed. From a purely communications perspective there is no issue, but if we are talking about policy then it gets back to working more closely through the Task Force structure. Hoff said he thinks it is both, communication on issues as well as on policy. Mion said that there is a distinction between communications and that is what is clouding this conversation. Rendall said that we have exceeded the time allocated to this agenda item. It was resolved that the Chairperson will ensure that the Panel is represented at all future meetings of other panels.

Panel Letterhead

Rendall then lead the conversation to a discussion of the suggested letterhead, and said that he prepared it because with the Great Lakes Panel there was some initial confusion when letters kept coming out on different letterhead. He said that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources graphics people came up with an example which he passed around. He said the boiler plate language at the bottom was patterned after the Great Lakes Panel letterhead. Ted McNulty (NASAC) said he loved it. Mark Heywood (UMRCC) suggested putting the acronym "MICRA" in parentheses. Chapman suggested adding a critter. Stucky moved adoption as is. McNulty seconded. Consensus was reached to adopt the letterhead as is.

Open Session for Public Comment

Although it was not on the agenda, Rendall asked if there was anyone present who wanted to provide public comments as is required at panel meetings. There was not anyone who wished to make comments, so no comments from the public were presented.

Other Panel Business

Rendall then asked for any Panel related issues. Hearing none he passed around copies of newsletters from the other panels, and said we could incorporate the MRB Panel information into MICRA's newsletter, "River Crossings". He said that the Panel staffs write the newsletter by getting updates from Panel members. He said there is usually a mini feature story on the front page. O'Leary said the Gulf Panel doesn't have a newsletter. Jensen said he thinks it is a great communications tool. Rendall said we could put it on the agenda for the Education and Communication Committee for additional thoughts. Mosher suggested that a Panel newsletter be a part of River Crossings. Jensen said that the Great Lakes panel does it as an insert to existing newsletters. O'Leary said that if we are going to do this it needs to be done in a format that can be sent out in many ways. Rasmussen suggested that the Education and Communication Committee address this. O'Leary agreed. Consensus was reached.

O'Leary asked if we are going to have a Web Site? Rendall said yes, the Education and Communication Committee should address this. Jensen said a List Serve or email reflector would also be good. Jensen agreed to work with Rasmussen on this.

Lubinski said that the committees should immediately identify tasks and what their focus is, because people looking in will want to know. Rendall said that conference calls will be a good way to do this.

Member Updates

Rendall then asked for member updates. He began by saying that Minnesota is in the process of designing a new field guide for ANS, and suggested that many others may like to go in on this. He said we have broadened the Great Lakes brochure to the Basin. He said we could do this inexpensively if we order more copies. One advantage of the Panel is that we can work together and save money with a common message and continuity. Jensen said cooperation also avoids duplication of effort. Rendall passed the brochure around for comments and said he would get back to Panel members when it is ready to print. Rendall said Doug Jensen's wallet cards have been very valuable in addressing ANS needs. O'Leary said that Louisiana has a pamphlet called "be on the lookout" that describes ANS in the state and those to be on the lookout for that aren't in the state yet. She said the pamphlet started in Louisiana and is now being used by other states. She said that the states are switching content by species, but the "Be on the Lookout" message is the same. She passed a copy around for Panel members to see.

Scott Knight (ARS) said he was not aware of anything specific on MRB ANS going on in the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS). He said he needed to do more homework on how ARS fits in and what the Panel is doing.

Stucky said Missouri is working on a draft state invasive species management plan. He also said Missouri is in the third year of its five year plan to eliminate black carp. Additionally, he said that a bait bucket undercover investigation is going on to buy bait from vendors to see if invasive species are being sold. He said he chairs Missouri's aquaculture coordinating council and that they are looking at ways of marketing Asian exotics. He said he thought this is something the Panel could push.

Hoff said that the FWS Carterville, IL Fisheries Office is developing the first draft of an Asian carp management plan, and that this could be a discussion item for a future workshop to develop an Asian carp management plan for submittal to the ANS Task force. He said that the Columbia and LaCrosse offices are doing a variety of things on the Asian carp and Round goby. He said the Region is also supporting development of the state ANS management plans.

Shults said Illinois is in year four of their ANS management plan, and are looking for beneficial uses of Asian carp. He said they are trying to stimulate a commercial market to take pressure off of the electrical barrier. He said we are also monitoring ways to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. He said that his agency is the local sponsor of the second electric barrier. He said that Illinois is hoping that NAISA passes so that Illinois can get off of the hook for maintenance of

the barrier.

Kolar said that USGS/BRD is increasing funding for research on ANS. She said that the agency is focusing on studying the effects of control in large rivers and on the control of Asian carp. She said that USGS is also developing a 5 year strategic plan, and working on a new Risk Assessment for bighead and silver carp.

Lubinski said that he had just joined TNC, so he is still learning what is going on. He suggested that other TNC persons would likely attend future meetings and we will be hearing from them. He said that TNC is concerned with conservation of biodiversity across the Basin, and so ANS is a major concern.

McElroy said that Louisiana is in its second year of developing their State Management Plan, and that consultants from Tulane University were hired to conduct research and do the writing, but that his department was the lead agency. He said the management plan should be done by the end of the year. He said also that research money is going toward nutria work because of the state's concerns about nutria impacts on coastline wetlands. He also said that Louisiana just passed legislation making possession of snakeheads illegal in the state.

Schainost said Nebraska is involved with the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, and they are expecting hordes of boaters traveling the river during that time. So, in this regard, the state is putting out information for the 100th meridian initiative. Materials are being provided on boatwashing systems, and boat inspections and power washes are being provided at portages.

Heywood said the UMRCC is involved in monitoring and distribution of ANS information. He said the UMRCC needs direction from the Panel on where to focus their efforts.

Stone said that Wyoming has been working on imports of warm and cool water species, making sure that agency management programs aren't contributing to the ANS problem. He said the state has educated their staffs and are working on outreach efforts. Bait buckets are also of concern as are people carrying fish in boat livewells. Also, he said, Wyoming is addressing angler and commercial operator introductions. He said that the "stop aquatic hitchhikers" info has been placed at boating locations. He said the role of the FWS in this effort could be greater, and that there is a need for common messages in order to avoid duplication of effort. He said we need to reach a national scale better than we have been doing.

Mion said that Ohio has been implementing a statewide management plan since 1995, and that it will be reviewed and revised over time. He said that Ohio has a continuing of purple loosestrife control program going on along Great Lakes marshes. He said Ohio will also be initiating an Asian carp monitoring effort in Ohio River tributaries, putting up signage at boat ramps for Hitchhikers and so on. He said the state continues to wrestle with Lake Erie issues and the impact of gobies on sport fishing. He said that a study of the effects of goby on smallmouth bass reproduction and recruitment will likely result in closure of smallmouth bass harvest next year. This is no small issue, he said. It is very politically charged.

Buynak said that Kentucky is about ten years behind the other states with regard to ANS issues. He said that they are providing information on bait bucket transfer and the largemouth bass virus. He said that communication is a part of all we do, but maybe we're not doing enough. He said that about two years ago Kentucky started a mussel propagation effort in Frankfort; taking threatened species and propagating them for stocking and evaluation. He said the impact of zebra mussels may be lessened through these efforts. He said that Kentucky is being forced through political pressure to allow reservoir ranching of paddlefish. He said that genetically altered (all female paddlefish) are being stocked for roe production and some will likely escape into the basin. The problems that this could create for wild paddlefish are not known.

Boxrucker said that Oklahoma has found zebra mussels for the first time outside of the Arkansas River System in the Verdigris River. He said they found 2,000-5,000 per square meter, and assume that they were spread by anglers because there is no barge traffic on the Verdigris. He also said that the first white perch has been collected, and that it presumably came into the state from tributaries in Kansas. He said that a brochure for water gardeners is being distributed in the state, and that lists of restricted plants and species to watch is being provided. The brochure also describes disposal methods when plants are thinned.

Meyer said that the U.S. Coast Guard is more involved on the coasts than inland, and that there has not been a perceived problem. He said that most foreign mariners know about ballast water concerns, and that most do not exchange ballast water. He said he boarded five foreign vessels in February, and that "coasties" (vessel pilots) know about ballast water control and are going along with it. He said the Coast Guard received no funding for this effort this year, but that they are enforcing the law. He said that the Commandant said that this is a No.1 issue.

Williamson said that while Manitoba is not in the MRB, Canada shares a large area with the U.S. where the MRB and Hudson basins join. He said his agency shares many of the same features that the states face - sharing the same message as Sea Grant. He said that Manitoba has a large, but sparsely funded ANS program. Zebra mussels have not yet entered Manitoba, so our efforts are working. He said there is a lot of angler traffic moving into the Province from the U.S. He said that public education programs are important and are working. He said that Manitoba also participates on the Western Panel and is involved in 100th Meridian Project. He said that Manitoba is also a member of International Joint Commission's Red River Board, and that they are trying to develop a monitoring protocol for ANS in the Red River Basin. He said that Manitoba could use some help on that.

Bogenshutz said that Iowa is in the 3rd year of its ANS program. She said that the state now has 22 lakes infested with Eurasian watermilfoil. She said that Iowa is monitoring for zebra mussel veligers on the Upper Mississippi River. She said the zebra mussel has not yet invaded any inland lakes or streams. She said Iowa is also involved with the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, and that a Travel Information Site has been approved at Sioux City to inform travelers and boaters. She said that state law is specific as to Eurasian watermilfoil, but so far, for nothing else. We do have a weed law, but it is intended more for agriculture protection than for ANS control.

Mosher said that Kansas is completing its state ANS plan with no dedicated positions to do it, so it is a challenge. He said that Kansas has added snakeheads to its prohibited species list, and that game wardens had gone out to all pet stores to buy up all snakeheads, so that any new ones found would be illegal. He said that Kansas is also involved in the Lewis and Clark celebration. Also he said Kansas had a *Cabelas* walleye tournament this year and inspected all boats for ANS. One boat was asked to leave until it was cleaned up. He said the first ever B.A.S.S. tournament in Kansas also had all boats inspected. He said that Kansas had a carp-specific kill in an aquarium; all the fish died but the cause was not carp spring viremia. He said that the Department of Agriculture, through the state ANS plan (weed program), has visited with aquatic gardeners to stop the sale of *Salvinia*.

Thompson said that as a catfish industry person he plays a different role. He said that we are monitoring ongoing research on problems we have with ANS used within the industry, and are looking for alternatives so that we can manage the industry better without the use of these fish. He said he will stay abreast of regulations so that the industry can be more responsible.

McNulty had nothing to report for NASAC, but commended the folks involved in putting the Panel meeting together.

Bivian reported that from the Coast Guard perspective, ballast water exchange is voluntary now. He said he hopes to have the notice of proposed rule making on the subject published soon. He said that the Office of Management and Budget has to clear the notice first. He said it is mandatory for ships to provide reports on their ballast, but there is no penalty if they don't exchange it at sea. He said that through the rule making process he hopes to change that with a \$25,000 fine. Another regulation, he said, is development of an experimental control program for ballast water treatment in order to get such systems onboard vessels. Another regulation under consideration is to get ballast water discharge standardized, so treatment is improved and only good ballast water is discharged.

Chapman said that the USGS is conducting research on black carp at the Columbia lab that is duplicating grass carp work earlier to determine the effectiveness of triploidy. He said also that data collection has been completed for the USGS *Salvinia* work.

Speichert said that this meeting has prompted him to create a more formal plant group to sponsor joint activities. He said that the plant industry is woefully understaffed with horticulturists. Most people selling plants are totally under-qualified to sell plant material, he said, and that he rarely receives what he orders. Most people selling plants commercially are hobbyists. He said that this panel meeting has brought the need to a head for development of better self control for his industry.

Jensen said that the Minnesota Sea Grant is working on both aquarium and water gardening education programs. As a follow-up to his "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" program presentation, he said, he hoped everyone would get involved. In this regard, he said, Joe Starinchak should be contacted at: (703) 358-2018. He also noted that the "Stop Exotics: Clean Your Boat" video are for sale through (see <http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/exotics/stop.html>), as is a CD featuring a

series of Power Point presentations on ANS issues.

Frank Jernejcic (WV) said that his state is at the head of the Ohio River, so their main concern is with stopping the zebra mussels from moving into the state's reservoirs. He said his state doesn't have a lot of bass fishing tournaments, but that they could be a real vector for the spread of zebra mussels, so management of tubs used at weigh-ins could be a big issue. He said West Virginia will be watching this closely. He said that state legislation was passed for the first time this year to control the movement of fish. Invasive species in the state have been largely plants, but a cottonmouth moccasin entered the state on a barge about 10 years ago.

Rendall mentioned that Lynn Schlueter from North Dakota could not attend, but sent a handout regarding their ANS efforts.

Rendall said that Minnesota updated a handout on the water garden industry, and that they are now talking with nurseries. He said that some nurseries have been selling *Salvinia*, a federal noxious weed. Additionally, he said that conservation officers were sent out to Asian markets, and that they found frozen wrapped snakeheads, but no Asian carp. Minnesota has begun using the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" logo. He said that we need to get the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" logo out so that it can be recognized everywhere like the recycling logo. He said that Minnesota also just produced a radio spot with the Minnesota Twins manager to get the message out about cleaning boats and draining livewells and bilge water.

Rendall then directed meeting discussions to the subject of the Panel's next meeting date and site. He suggested a late fall or winter meeting in the South. He said we would like to rotate the meeting site between the five sub basins. O'Leary said that November might be good. She said it would allow all committees to meet face to face, and that the weather is good in Louisiana in the winter. Consensus was reached for a November meeting in Louisiana, and Rendall said that the Executive Board would work with members to find a location.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. for the field trip.

Field trip

The field trip to the St. Croix River included an opportunity to see the Minnesota DNR watercraft inspectors contact boaters at a boat landing and to hear how the inspection efforts work. During the boat ride on the river, Byron Karns with the National Park Service gave an excellent description of the unique resources in the river and efforts to keep zebra mussels from the St Croix National Scenic Riverway. He also pointed out that the resources of the river will likely be threatened by Asian carp that could swim their way to the river. Also during the boat ride the NPS's floating ranger station was observed. At that point, NPS regulations restrict all upstream boat traffic in order to limit the opportunity for zebra mussels to be transported into that portion of the river.

Attendance List

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Dwight Williamson | Manitoba Conservation | dwilliamso@gov.mb.ca |
| Cindy Kolar | USGS/BRD – La Crosse | ckolar@usgs.gov |
| Valerie A. Barko | Missouri Dept. of Conservation | barkov@mdc.state.mo.us |

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|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jeff Boxrucker | Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife | jboxrucker@aol.com |
| Tom Mosher | Kansas Dept. of Wildlife & Parks | tomm@wp.state.ks.us |
| Jerry Rasmussen | MICRA | ijrivers@aol.com |
| Allen Hance | Northeast-Midwest Institute | ahance@nemw.org |
| Billie Kerans | Montana State University – Bozeman | bkerans@montana.edu |
| Mike Stone | Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. | mike.stone@wgf.state.wy.us |
| Doug Jensen | Univ. of Minn. Sea Grant Program | djensen@led.umn.edu |
| Byron Karns | NPS – St. Croix River NSR | byron_karns@nps.gov |
| Kim Bogenschutz | Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources | kim.bogenschutz@dnr.state.ia.us |
| Phil Moy | Wisconsin Sea Grant | pmoy@uwc.edu |
| Norm Stucky | Missouri Dept. of Conservation | stuckn@mdc.state.mo.us |
| Steve Schainost | Nebraska Game & Parks Comm. | schainost@ngpc.state.ne.us |
| Kristine Maki | | gies0038@umn.edu |
| Marshall Meyers | PIJAC | mmeyers@pijac.org |
| Ron Lukens | Gulf States Marine Fisheries Comm. | rlukens@gsmfc.org |
| Marilyn O’Leary | Sea Grant | moleary@lsu.edu |
| Bob Pitman | USFWS – Region 2 | bob_pitman@fws.gov |
| Gerry Buynak | Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildl. Res. | gerard.buynak@mail.state.ky.us |
| Frank Jernejcic | West Virginia Div. of Natural Res. | jernef@mail.wvnet.edu |
| Joe Mion | Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources | joe.mion@dnr.state.oh.us |
| John E. Meyers | U.S. Coast Guard | jmeyers@d8.uscg.mil |
| Scott Knight | USDA – Agric. Research Service | sknight@ars.usda.gov |
| Bivan Patnaik | U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters | bpatnaik@comdt.uscg.mil |
| Louie Thompson | Catfish Farmers of America | tfisheries@aol.com |
| Nick Rowse | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | nick_rowse@fws.gov |
| Mark McElroy | Louisiana Dept. of Wildl. & Fisheries | mcelroy_mg@wlf.state.la.us |
| Duane Chapman | USGS/BRD Columbia | duane_chapman@usgs.gov |
| Mike Armstrong | Arkansas Game & Fish Commission | marmstrong@agfc.state.ar.us |
| Steve Shults | Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources | sshults@dnrmail.state.il.us |
| Chris Dionigi | National Invasive Species Council | chris_dionigi@ios.doi.gov |
| David Jude | University of Michigan | djude@umich.edu |
| Greg Speichert | Crystal Palace Perennials | gspeichert@aol.com |
| William Holland | EPA/Gulf of Mexico Program | holland.bill@epa.gov |
| Sharon Gross | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | sharon_gross@fws.gov |
| Jay Rendall | Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources | jay.rendall@dnr.state.mn.us |
| Mike Hoff | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | michael_hoff@fws.gov |
| Ken Lubinski | The Nature Conservancy | ken_lubinski@usgs.gov |
| Ted McNulty | NASAC | tmcnulty@adfa.state.ar.us |

Mississippi River Basin Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species Final Agenda for the Initial Meeting

Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport
3800 E 80th St, Bloomington, MN 55425
July 10-11,2003

Thursday, July 10

8:00 Welcome and Introductions of Members (Jay Rendall – Panel Chair and all)

8:15 Initial thoughts about the Panel

Norm Stucky (MICRA)
Sharon Gross (ANS Task Force)
Jay Rendall (Chair) Review Framework adopted by MICRA
Mike Hoff (Vice-chair)

9:00 Symposium on ANS Issues in the Basin:

Species in the Basin and their Management: (Moderator: Jay Rendall)

- ANS in the Basin (Jerry Rasmussen, MICRA)
- Asian carp (Duane Chapman, USGS)
- New Zealand mud snail (Dr. Billie Kerans, University of Montana)

10:00 Break

10:20 Continue - Species in Basin and their Management:

- Round goby (Dr. David Jude, University of Michigan)
- Purple loosestrife, Eurasian watermilfoil, and other biocontrol (Dr. Luke Skinner - MNDNR)

11:00 Pathways of Spread and Prevention: (Moderator: Luke Skinner)

- Risks associated with the aquatic plant trade (Kristine Maki, University of Minnesota)
- Recreational activities, voluntary guidelines, example state laws (Jay Rendall, MNDNR)
- Effective boater education programs and products (Doug Jensen, Minnesota Sea Grant)

12:00 Lunch (provided on site)

12:30 Networking

1:00 National and Basin issues and initiatives:

ANS/Invasive Species related entities (Moderator: Mike Hoff)

- ANS Task Force (Sharon Gross, USFWS/ANS Task Force)
- Western Panel Show and Tell (Mike Stone, WY Game and Fish Department)
- Great Lakes Panel Show and Tell (Jay Rendall and Doug Jensen)
- Gulf Panel Show and Tell (Ron Lukens, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission)

2:30 Break

2:50 Prevention Initiatives (Moderator: Norm Stucky)

- Dispersal barrier and summit in Chicago (Phil Moy, WI Sea Grant)
- 100th Meridian initiative (Bob Pitman and Mike Hoff, USFWS)
- Protect Your Waters / Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers (Doug Jensen, Minnesota Sea Grant)
- National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA) (Allen Hance, Northeast Midwest Institute)

- National Invasive Species Council (NISC): Who are they, status of national plan, and rapid response initiatives (Chris Dionigi, National Invasive Species Council)
- Risk Assessment for Nonindigenous Fish (Cindy Kolar, USGS)

5:00 Adjourn for day

Friday, July 11

7:30 Continental breakfast in meeting room

8:00 Member updates

8:15 Discussion on Panel Organization and Operation: (Norm Stucky – moderator)
 Recap panel responsibilities
 Panel Committees – Education, Policy, Research, Control, Executive Board
 Establish Committees
 Annual Committee charges
 Signup for committees
 Discuss Committee Chairs
 Other

10:00 Break / Networking

10:30 Member updates

10:45 Operation and decision making outside of panel meetings (Norm Stucky – moderator)

11:30 Cooperation and connection with other panels (Mike Hoff – moderator)

12:00 Other business (Jay Rendall)

12:30 Adjourn for field trip

1:00 Field trip to St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and other locations:

- Bus/van trip to St. Croix (discuss history of ANS efforts there and St. Croix Interstate ANS plan)
- Visit a purple loosestrife biological control site
- Visit MNDNR watercraft inspectors at a public boat landing
- St. Croix River NSR – boat ride to the part of the river where special NPS regulations are in place and the NPS's contact station where boaters must stop

5:00 First vehicle leaves the St. Croix for the airport

5:30 Optional dinner at the Dock Cafe on the St. Croix River in Stillwater.

6:00 First vehicle arrives at airport/Hilton.

7:15 Second vehicle leaves for airport.

8:00 Second vehicle arrives at airport/Hilton

Rev. July 9th

MRBP Committee / Work Group

Initial Responsibilities and Priorities

Discussion Draft - July 11, 2003

Education and Communication

Responsibilities

- Develop recommended member actions
- Identify educational product priorities
- Identify possible collaborative projects (e.g., support of the 100th Meridian Initiative)
- Coordination with other Regional Panels
- Activities must support other Panel Work Group needs

Research and Risk Assessment

Responsibilities

- Identify research priorities (will help funding organizations/agencies prioritize funding of proposals)
- Undertake and/or support research projects
- Technology transfer

Prevention and Control

Responsibilities

- Identify Integrated Pest Management for Aquatic Nuisance Species
- Prioritize species for control within each sub-basin (will help funding organizations/agencies prioritize funding of proposals)
- Develop rapid response system process (may wish to work with results of Risk Assessment Subcommittee)
- Develop policy position papers
- Basin policy on introductions
- Recommendations to improve state and federal regulations
- Develop monitoring action plan

2003 Tasks

- NAISA position paper
- Response to Black Carp Notice in Federal Register
- Position on mute swans per notice in Federal Register

Executive Board/Steering Committee

Responsibilities

- Plan and schedule panel meetings
- Regular (i.e., monthly) conference calls
- Procedures manual/summary
 - Procedures should include those to make decisions
 - Procedures will include do's and don'ts list from Sharon

2003 Tasks

- Travel expenses policy
- Next meeting
- Determine composition of Executive Board/Steering Committee
 - Develop proposal, and send to membership for review and comment
 - Chair, Vice-chair, Committee Chairs, Coordinator, Industry Rep., NGO, and Tribal Rep., unless the last three are Chairs of Committees

Mississippi River Basin Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species Committees

Established at the Organizational Meeting

**Bloomington, MN
July 10-11, 2003**

Executive Board

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Jay Rendall (Chairperson) | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources |
| Mike Hoff (Vice Chairperson) | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| Jerry Rasmussen (Coordinator) | MICRA |
| Kim Bogenschutz (Iowa) | Prevention and Control Committee |
| Cindy Kolar (USGS/BRD) | Research and Risk Assessment |
| Steve Schainost (Nebraska) | Education and Communication Committee |
| Vacant | Commercial Representative |
| Vacant | Environmental Representative |
| Vacant | Tribal Representative |

Prevention and Control

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Kim Bogenschutz (Chairperson) | Iowa Department of Natural Resources |
| Frank Jernejcic | West Virginia Division of Natural Resources |
| Bivian Patnaik | U.S. Coast Guard - Headquarters |
| Louie Thompson | Catfish Farmers of America |
| Mike Armstrong | Arkansas Game & Fish Commission |
| Tom Mosher | Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks |
| John E. Meyers | U.S. Coast Guard – 8 th District |
| Joe Mion | Ohio Department of Natural Resources |
| Mike Stone | Wyoming Game & Fish Department |
| Dan Sallee | Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee |
| Steve Schainost | Nebraska Game & Parks Commission |
| Mark McElroy | Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries |
| Mike Conlin | Illinois Department of Natural Resources |
| Jay Rendall | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources |
| Marshall Meyers | PIJAC |

Research and Risk Assessment

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cindy Kolar (Chairperson) | USGS/BRD La Crosse |
| Greg Speichert | Crystal Palace Perennials |
| Duane Chapman | USGS/BRD – Columbia |
| Valerie A. Barko | Missouri Department of Conservation |
| Ted McNulty | NASAC |
| Mike Armstrong | Arkansas Game & Fish Commission |

Jeff Boxrucker
TBA

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Education and Communication

Steve Schainost (Chairperson)
Marilyn Barrett – O’Leary
Greg Speichert
Kim Bogenschutz
Dwight Williamson
Gerry Buynak
Mike Stone

Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
Sea Grant
Crystal Palace Perennials
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Manitoba Conservation
Kentucky Department of Fisheries & Wildlife Resources
Wyoming Game & Fish Department